

Don't release pet turtles in the wild

**ROSEBURG** – A 10-pound snapping turtle recently found at the Yoncalla Water Treatment Plant is a good reminder not to release pet turtles into the wild. It's illegal, and it's harmful for Oregon's two native turtles, the Western Pond Turtle and Western Painted Turtle.

Snapping turtles, red-eared sliders, and map turtles and are not native to Oregon and are often illegally bought, sold or traded in the state. These are the most common pet turtles but are prohibited by law in Oregon because they are invasive species.

ODFW biologists say invasive turtles compete with Oregon's native turtles for food, basking sites, and nesting areas. Many grow bigger and lay more eggs than our native turtles, and some even predate upon them, hatchlings in particular.

Turtles can live 40 to 100 years, and are often released into the wild when people lose interest or tire of caring for them. Pet turtles often suffer from eye, shell or respiratory infections, and these pathogens can be spread to native turtles.

"Turtles take a lot of care and have special diet and habitat needs to keep them healthy," says ODFW Conservation Biologist Susan Barnes. "Turtles also carry salmonella which can make people, particularly children, very sick."

Anyone finding an invasive turtle can turn it into their local ODFW office. Use extra caution when picking up a snapping turtle however; they can and do bite. Pick snappers up by the back of their tail, not the sides as their neck is long enough to swing about half their body size.



Submitted photo

Shown is the 10-pound snapping turtle caught recently.

This time of year, female turtles are moving to nesting areas. Rick Boatner, ODFW Invasive Species Program Manager has some advice.

"If you find a native turtle crossing the road, pick it up and put it on the side of the road in the direction it was heading," Boatner said.

The Western Painted Turtle and Western Pond Turtle are both classified as "Critical" on Oregon's Sensitive Species list; state law prohibits killing them or taking them from the wild. Our native turtles are also identified as priority at-risk species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy due to declining habitat quality and fragmentation, pollution and competition with invasive turtles among other reasons.

ODFW tracks native and non-native turtle sightings, and asks the public to help by reporting online.

NEWDALL, from page B1

could meet one celebrity it would be Audrey Hepburn, her most memorable travel experience is when she did student teaching in Dublin, Ireland and traveled around Ireland, England, France and Germany. A superpower she would most use is teleporta-

tion and if she could be reborn as an animal it would be a cheetah.

Newdall's highest accomplishment is raising her two wonderful children. Lincoln is a freshman at SWOCC, and Paris is a sophomore at Gold Beach

High School. She has been married over 20 years to her amazing husband Will. Outside of teaching, Newdall enjoys reading, camping, and cooking.

Gold Beach High School is lucky to have Newdall on their team.

BRADBURY, from page B1

that if he could meet one celebrity it would be Audrey Tatou, he would take her to dinner, a movie and then see if they had that connection! His most memorable travel experience was living in Gabon in Central Africa for two years. When asked about what super human power he would possess, it would of course be the one he already has; superior intellect. His most amazing accom-

plishment is climbing Mt. Shasta.

Bradbury is a breath of fresh air at Gold Beach High School, his positive energy and willingness to help students is very welcome. This year's trip to France and Spain with a group of Gold Beach High School students was one of the most rewarding experiences for him. Outside of school he enjoys playing guitar, hiking, and surfing.

Legal and Public Notice

INITIATION OF SCOPING, SHASTA AGNESS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT. The Gold Beach Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is proposing a vegetation and watershed restoration project within the Shasta Costa Creek – Rogue River, the Stair Creek – Rogue River and a portion of the lower end of the Lawson Creek – Illinois River watersheds. We invite you to submit comments to help refine the proposed activities and to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities to be addressed in the environmental analysis of this proposal. This proposed project is intended to implement the forest's land management plan and is subject to the objection process specified in 36 CFR §218, subparts A and B.

The Shasta Agness Landscape Restoration project is located in Curry and Josephine County, Oregon, approximately 30 miles northeast of Gold Beach, Oregon, on the Gold Beach and Wild Rivers Ranger District. The three watersheds total approximately 95,000 acres. The overall purpose of the proposed actions in the Shasta Agness project area is to improve or maintain the quality of unique forest stands, accelerate late seral habitat characteristics, improve or restore aquatic and riparian habitat, and promote quality sustainable recreational opportunities. Management activities include: unique habitat restoration by restoring oak savannahs and woodlands, sugar pine and Jeffrey pine forest stands; accelerating development of later seral forest structure; improving water quality and habitat conditions in aquatic and riparian areas, and reducing hydrologic impacts of excess or poorly designed roads; and managing recreational opportunities and needs in a sustainable manner. Approximately 3250 to 7100 acres of unique habitat are proposed for treatment; approximately 1200 to 2000 acres of LSR acceleration are proposed for treatment; 37 miles of stream habitat are proposed for restoration; 21 miles of roads are proposed for changes in designation. Please see the scoping letter on the project website for more detailed information: [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=49607](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=49607). If you have questions regarding this proposal, please contact Matt Timchak, team lead, by email [mstimchak@fs.fed.us](mailto:mstimchak@fs.fed.us), or phone, (541) 247-3624.

Specific written comments, as defined by §218.2, should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. In order to be eligible to file an objection, individuals and organizations must ensure that their specific written comments are received (or postmarked) within 30 calendar days after the publication of this legal notice in the Curry County Reporter and the Grants Pass Dailey Courier. Those who respond to this request for comments will be included in the mailing list to receive future updates for the project. An additional 30-day comment period will be provided when the environmental analysis is completed. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted; however, we will not be able to provide anonymous respondents with subsequent notices and environmental documents, and anonymous commenters will not be eligible to file objections (§218.8(c)).

Comments should be submitted by mail or fax to: Tina Lanier, District Ranger, c/o Matt Timchak, 29279 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach, OR, 97444, fax: (541) 247-3641. Electronic comments may be submitted to [comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us) and must use a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or MS Word (.doc, .docx). Please state "Shasta Agness Landscape Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. An objection period, if required, will follow the requirements of 36 CFR §218, subparts A and B. Only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection (§218.5). Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (§218.8(c)).

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very good. In addition to the legal-sized trout, anglers are catching some larger rainbows and Chinook. Boaters have been doing well by trolling a fly, lure, or wedding ring/bait combination. Those wanting to specifically target the Chinook salmon in the lake should troll spoons or spinner at a depth of 20 to 50 feet. Bank anglers can catch fish by casting lures or still-fishing with bait.

Fishing for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass should be good. Look for the largemouth around the flooded willows, and the smallmouth along the rocky shorelines. The lake is 97 percent full. The Hart-Tish, Copper, and French Gulch boat ramps are available.

**APPLEGATE RIVER: steelhead, trout**

The Applegate River is open for trout angling. Two hatchery trout may be harvested per day. Wild trout must be released unharmed.

**ARIZONA POND: rainbow trout**

This is a small pond and provides for some great fishing. Additional trout will be stocked prior to Free Fishing Weekend. Some of the best techniques for catching these trout are bobber and worm, spinners, or flies. The pond is managed by Oregon State Parks for youth-only fishing and is located at Arizona Beach State Recreation Area; approximately halfway between Gold Beach and Port Orford.

**BEN IRVING RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, bass, bluegill, yellow perch, crappie**

Ben Irving has been stocked with 4,500 legal trout so far this year, and there are still opportunities to catch rainbow trout from previous year's stockings. Warmwater fishing for bass, crappie and bluegill has begun to pick up as water temperatures increase and fish move into shallower areas to spawn. The use of soft-plastics and swimbaits around structure should warrant positive results.

**CHETCO RIVER: Cutthroat**

Cutthroat are spread throughout the river, but anglers have been doing best in the estuary or tributaries.

**COOPER CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, bass, bluegill**

Cooper Creek has been stocked with approximately 7,500 legal and 100 pounder size rainbow trout in 2016. Fishing for bass and bluegill has been improving as water temperatures increase and fish move into shallower areas.

**COOS COUNTY LAKES/PONDS: trout, warmwater fish**

Legal and trophy size trout were stocked last week in Empire Lakes and legal size trout into Tenmile Lakes. This was the last trout stocking until the fall.

Anglers that catch a tagged trout in Empire Lakes can report the tag number to ODFW by stopping by the Charleston Office, calling 541-888-5515, or report tags online. A few of these tags are worth a \$50 gift card. Fishing in the area lakes for trout has been ok with anglers having the best success using small spinners, spoons, or garlic flavored Powerbait. The

daily trout bag limit in these lakes is five trout per day with only one trout over 20 inches.

There are trout available for kids in the Millicoma Pond at the Millicoma Interpretive Center and fishing is excellent. Millicoma Pond is set aside for kids fishing only and is a great chance for them to hook into fish. Please call before traveling to Millicoma Pond to make sure the gates are open. The phone number is (541)267-2557.

Most largemouth bass have finished spawning and will be found in a little deeper water associated with cover of weedlines or other structure. Bluegill fishing is picking up with many fish found in or near shallow water. Plastic worms, shallow crankbaits, and spinner baits are good to use for bass. Bluegills will bit on worms, small jigs, or flies.

**COOS RIVER BASIN: Dungeness crab, bay clams, rockfish**

Trout season opened in rivers and streams May 22. Angling is restricted to artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater.

Anglers have been catching rockfish along the jetties and submerged rock piles. An occasional ling cod is also being caught in the bay. The marine fish daily bag limit for bottom fish (rockfish) is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish. Retention of cabezon is prohibited from January 1 through June 30.

Crabbing has been decent for those crabbing from a boat with the best crabbing near high tide. There has been a mixture of hard shell and soft shell crab in the catch. It is still recommended you discard the crab viscera (guts/butter) before cooking.

Recreational harvest of bay clams remains open along the entire Oregon coast. Clamming is excellent during low tides near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway, and Clam Island. There are also good places to dig clams even on positive low tides in Coos Bay. Due to low tide exchanges this week, the next good opportunity to dig bay clams will be in a week. Recreational harvest of razor clams is closed from Tillamook Head to Cascade Head and from Yachats River south to the California border due to elevated levels of domoic acid. This includes all beaches and all bays.

Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website for any updates.

**ELK RIVER: Cutthroat**

Cutthroat are spread throughout the river but access is very limited in the lower river.

**FLORAS LAKE: rainbow, cutthroat trout**

The best method for catching trout is slow trolling flies or wedding ring spinners from a boat. Bank access is limited. This time of year anglers will want to keep an eye on the weather before heading out.

Anglers can launch at an improved boat ramp at Boice Cope County Park. Boat anglers are reminded to clean all aquatic vegetation off their boats and trailers before heading home to help control the spread non-native plants and animals.

**GARRISON LAKE: rainbow, cutthroat trout**

Increased vegetation growth this time of year makes fishing a little tougher, but anglers are reporting good success. Anglers with boats that can fish the deeper weed lines are doing the best. This is the time of year to keep an eye on the weather and fish when conditions are good.

**PACIFIC OCEAN AND BEACHES: bottomfish, Dungeness crab, surf perch, salmon, halibut**

Recreational harvest of crab is open along the entire Oregon Coast. It is still recommended you discard the crab viscera (guts/butter) before cooking.

Anglers fishing the beaches from Coos Bay to Bandon have been catching retail surf perch. Sand shrimp or Berkley Gulp sand worms have been working the best for bait. Surf perch fishing is usually best on the incoming tide.

Recreational ocean salmon fishing from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. is open for all salmon except coho salmon. Anglers are allowed two salmon per day with a minimum size for Chinook at 24 inches or larger. The selective coho (fin-clipped) season will open on June 25 with a quota of 26,000 coho.

As of May 28 there is only 31 percent of the All-Depth Halibut quota left. The Nearshore Halibut season opened on June 1.

Fishing for bottom fish is now closed outside of a line approximating the 30-fathom curve.

Fishing for black rockfish has been good from Coos Bay south to Bandon. Fishing for ling cod has been decent. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two). Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish. Retention of cabezon is prohibited from January 1 through June 30.

To help anglers identify common species and comply with the regulations, ODFW has produced several sheets of ID Tips for blue vs. black rockfish and for China, copper and quillback rockfish, as well as a handout titled "What Can I Keep, and How Many?"

**SMITH RIVER, Umpqua: sturgeon, striped bass, steelhead**

The Smith River mainstem is closed to angling above Spencer Creek through May 21, but angling for steelhead and striped bass is still open in tidewater below Spencer Creek. The North Fork Smith River is also closed above Johnson Creek through May 21. Retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead is allowed in tidewater. Sturgeon fishing is catch-and-release only, and striped bass fishing should improve in May. The daily limit for striped bass is 2 per 24 hour period.

Crossword & Sudoku Solutions From Page B3

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6	9	2	5	8	4	1	7	3
6	2	3	1	4	5	7	9	8
1	9	7	3	6	8	2	4	5
8	4	5	2	7	9	3	6	1